India On the Move

India became world’s 2nd top steel producer

As per the World Steel Association (worldsteel) report 2018, India has become the world’s second largest steel producing country after China who is the largest producer of crude steel accounting for more than 51 per cent of production.

India celebrated 70th Republic Day

On 26th January 2016, India celebrated a very special day i.e. its Republic Day. The main colourful celebrations were held at the historic Rajpath where President Shri Ram Nath Kovind hosted President of Republic of South Africa and Supreme Commander of the South African National Defence Force Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa. The Republic Day Parade Ceremony commenced with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi leading the nation in paying homage to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti under India Gate. The celebrations also included tableauxes displaying life, times and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

India State Emblem adopted on 26 January 1950. The words Satyameva Jayate in Devnagri script from Mundaka Upanishad, meaning 'Truth Alone Triumphs'.

India Republic Day 2019 Tableau ‘Kisan Gandhi’. It bagged First Prize.

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With the introduction of BS-VI, India joins the small list of Asia-Pacific nations—Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, and China—where BS-VI fuels are used across the board.

**The Indian Connection**

**India’s first Cinema Museum inaugurated in Mumbai**

PM Narendra Modi, inaugurates the country’s first National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) on January 19. This state-of-the-art museum aims to take its visitors through an absorbing journey of over a century of Indian cinema with the help of visuals, graphics, artifacts, interactive exhibits and multimedia expositions.

**India’s first student-made satellite**

For the first time, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a small communication satellite, KalamSat, developed by students from Space Kidz India. The payload by the students launched along with Microsat-R, an imaging satellite for DRDO. ISRO used its new variant of the PSLV rocket for the launch.

**ISRO launched India’s first student-made satellite**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad is introducing a new B.Tech. course in Artificial Intelligence that will be available to the students beginning the coming academic year (2019-2020). It is the first such full-fledged B.Tech. programme to be offered by an Indian university. The course will include study of algorithms, signal processing, robotics and mathematical foundations. It will also focus on application verticals such as healthcare, agriculture, smart mobility, and more including ethical impact of AI and related technologies on areas such as privacy, bias, and related issues will also taught to the students. The institute hopes that the new programme will allow the students to become leaders in the field and help meet the growing demand for artificial intelligence and machine learning experts in the industry.

**IIT Hyderabad Introduces India’s First B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence**

**Japanese tech startups start to explore India for customers and tech talent**

Japanese startups have started to going to India to explore new partnerships, customers and technology talent. This is in an attempt to expand their reach outside of their home country. In Bengaluru for the first time, 10 Japanese startups across different domains, showcased their expertise. This was in front of a select audience consisting of venture capitalists, Indian entrepreneurs and others in the startup ecosystem. This initiative was led by the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) in Bengaluru. The ten Japanese startups that showcased their expertise are:

- **Caulis**: A cybersecurity firm, which provides cloud-based fraud detection for enterprise companies.
- **Quantum Biosystems**: A life science startup developing single molecule sequencing technology to reduce sequencing costs while improving accuracy.
- **Grooves**: This is mid-stage HR entity has developed an engineering skill database which rate this technical pool through an AI platform.
- **Susmed**: A digital therapeutics startup has developed a mobile application to treat insomnia through the application of blockchain and AI technology.
- **Genie**: This is a digital marketing technology startup which aims to help customers improve productiveness and profitability.
- **Stroly**: An open map platform startup which is a location service that shows GPS positioning on any kind of map or form.
- **Technolab**: This is a hardware entity which is making a platform for low volume manufacturing targeted at industrial designers.
- **Fine Technologies**: A mid-stage healthcare startup, which has developed an AI trainer to help users understand daily habits that affect health.
- **Ubie**: This artificial intelligence health tech startup has developed a chatbot disease prediction service.
- **Lequio Power Technology**: This healthcare venture has developed a generic portable ultrasound solution to be used for diagnosis and medical education.

**PM Modi Flagged off Vande Bharat Express, India’s First Engineless Train**

Kenol Mobility launched India’s first electric vehicle (EV) taxi fleet, BLU-SMART, in Delhi-NCR with about 70 cars that will be ramped up to 400 vehicles by the end of March 2019. The company, which is in talks with various car companies such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nissan for procuring EVs, has also invested over Rs 50 crore to set up charging infrastructure in various parts of the city.

India's first electric taxi service launched in Delhi-NCR
At the Embassy:
On the occasion of the 70th Republic Day of India, in the morning of 26 January 2019, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma hoisted the National Flag at the Embassy of India in Tokyo in the presence of a huge number (about 700) of members of enthusiastic Indian Community, Japanese and friends of India. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the customary reading out by the Ambassador of the President’s Address to the Nation on the eve of Republic Day. Students of IISJ, Tokyo and GIIS, Tokyo sang patriotic songs.

Two Japan’s leading national newspapers, “Japan News” and “Japan Times”, brought out a special supplement on India’s 70th Republic Day. They carried the Ambassador of India’s Message as well as congratulatory messages by Japanese dignitaries.

Reception at Okura Hotel
A reception to mark the 70th Republic Day of India was hosted at the landmark Okura Hotel in Tokyo on 28 January 2019 by H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. H.E. Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Government of Japan and Secretary General of the Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and addressed the audience. The reception was attended by over 500 guests. The august gathering included Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, President of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League; Former Prime Minister Mr. Yasuo Fukuda; Mr Masatoshi Ishida, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications; Mr Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Chief Representative of Komeito Party Natsuo Yamaguchi; other members of the India-Japan Parliamentary Friendship group, captains of the business community, senior officials from various Ministries, heads of cultural organizations, representatives of think-tanks, the scientific community, academia, media, the Indian community and the diplomatic corps.

Gandhi Peace Prize 2018
Mr Yohei Sasakawa from Japan for the year 2018 for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world. Mr Yohei Sasakawa is the Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, and Japan's Goodwill Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by leprosy.

The jury comprise of Prime Minister of India (Chairman), Chief Justice of India, Speaker of Lok Sabha (Upper House of the Parliament), Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in Lok Sabha and Member of Parliament.

The annual award was instituted by the Government of India in 1995 during the commemoration of 125th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The award carries an amount of Rs 1Crore, a Citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
EoI represented India at 1st meeting of G20 Digital Economy Task Forceunder Japan’s presidency in Tokyo from 30-31 January 2019 discussing issues related to Digital Transformation, Human-Centric AI, innovation and promoting SDGs through digital economy etc.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma delivered the opening remarks at the Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers Forum Seminar in Embassy of India, Tokyo on January 31, 2019. The Seminar on India Investment was hosted by Japan Securities Dealers Association. The objective of the Seminar was to educate Japanese investors about the legal, taxation and regulatory aspects of investing in India.

Embassy of India organized a seminar on Healthcare opportunities in India on 18th January 2019. The objective of the seminar was to discuss the latest developments in the Health sector of India, opportunities for Japanese companies by giving an overview of the Health Sector and experience sharing by some Indian and Japanese companies in this sector including on vibrant startup eco-system in Health Sector in which some Japanese investors have already taken keen interest. The seminar was supported by JETRO and key government stakeholders including from Cabinet Secretariat, MoHLW and METI participated in the seminar.

During the Opening Remarks Ambassador H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma said, “India-Japan cooperation is extending in new realms and areas and health sector is one of that. Indian health care market is 4th largest market for medical devices which is expected to reach US$ 50 billion by 2025. The overall Indian healthcare market is worth around US$ 110 billion which is expected to reach USD 280 billion by 2020.” He invited Japanese private sector to invest in Indian health sector which is growing very fast with opportunities available through implementation of “Ayushman Bharat” (National Health Protection Scheme and GoI’s flagship programme) also.

During the seminar Mr. Masahiro Sasaki, Director, Office of Healthcare Policy, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan, Mr. Sapan Parekh, Head, Supply Chain from Sun Pharma Japan, Mr. Vishal Gondal, CEO & Founder, GOQii, Mr. Noriaki Sakamoto, Partener, UTEC (Tokyo based Venture Capital fund), representative of JFMDA (Association of medial devices companies), Mr. Nimish Parekh, Executive Director, Parekh Integrated Services, representative of Konoike, Mr. Toshimasa Yashima, Executive Director, Seikeikai Medical Corporation and Mr. Raj from NAVIS (Japanese language training organization) made remarks in their respective fields. The seminar drew great response and more than 100 participants from more than 55 private companies apart from governmental organizations attended the event.
Presenting the Interim Budget 2019-20 Finance Minister Piyush Goyal laid out vision for 10 most important dimensions in 2030.

- Digital India to reach every corner of the economy and every citizen
- Clean and green India with electric vehicles and renewables
- Rural industrialisation using modern digital technologies to generate massive employment
- Clean Rivers with safe drinking water for all
- Self-sufficiency in food production with emphasis on organic food
- To become launch-pad of satellites for the world and place an Indian astronaut in space by 2022
- Minimum government, maximum governance
- Coastline and ocean waters to power country’s development and growth
- Healthy and distress free India with comprehensive wellness system for all
- Next generation infrastructure in all sectors for ease of living

The government will start a national programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to harness the benefit from new age technologies in identified areas, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said while presenting the Interim Budget 2019-20.

“India has become the second largest hub of start-ups. In order to take benefits of AI and related technologies to the people, a national programme on AI has been envisaged by our government. This should be catalysed by the establishment of the National Centre of AI as a hub along with centres of excellence. Nine priority areas have been identified. A national AI portal will be developed soon” Minister said.

As per the interim budget released on Friday (1 February), the funds allocated to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 2019-20 have crossed Rs 10,000 crore for the first time. At Rs 10,252 crore, the allocation is higher than the revised estimate for the previous 2018-19 budget of the space agency at Rs 9,918 crore, and greater than the Rs 8,053 crore which had been allocated to it in 2017-18. In fiscal year 2019 ISRO has 32 planned missions (14 launch vehicles, 17 satellites and 1 Tech demo missions) including the ‘most complex’ Chandrayaan-2 which is due for an April 2019 launch.

Speaking about the government’s vision for India’s space programme, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal stated, “The seventh dimension of our vision for the next decade aims at the outer skies. Our space programme - Gaganyaan, India becoming the launch-pad of satellites for the world and placing an Indian astronaut into space by 2022, reflect this dimension of our vision.’

Foreign Minister Taro Kono visited New Delhi for the 10th India-Japan Foreign Minister-level Strategic Dialogue with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

During his visit to India, Foreign Minister Taro Kono delivered a message about Japan's perspective on the Japan-India relations and regional issues in the interview with WION (India) held on January 8. The interview was broadcasted throughout India on January 10 (India Time).

- India has a huge potential and it is a growing economy with a young population. So it's good to have a very friendly relationship with India and Japan and India could be a natural ally in terms of our economy and defence and security.
- India is the largest democracy on this planet and India and Japan share many common values, democracy, human rights, rule of law and we are strategically, I think aligned very nicely. So I think we need to work hard to develop this special strategic relationship into the future.
- India is the largest recipient of our ODA (Official Development Assistance) and Japan is now the third largest investor in India. More than fifteen hundred Japanese companies are now very active in the Indian market and India as well and I think keeping free and open sea lines of communication is vital to the economic prosperity in not only Asia but for Africa, the Middle East, all the way across the Pacific to the western coast of the United States and we share common values of this free and open Indo-Pacific vision and India is the most important partner to making it happen. We need to work on connectivity for economic prosperity and also we need to work together to keep the law enforcement capacity of the countries along the coast and we can work together on this issue as well. So this relationship needs to be stronger and I think it is natural to say this is the most important partnership to make a 'free and open Indo-Pacific' happen.

2019 is an important milestone marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, and the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the Indian Constitution. India is seeing progress guided by the ideals of social and economic justice as enshrined in the constitution by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Cleanliness being a major goal for India’s development, under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Programme) more than 90 million toilets have been constructed, and rural sanitation has increased to nearly 98 per cent. This increase in sanitation has spared poor people from diseases caused by bad sanitation.

The Ujjawala Yojana programme has provided more than 60 million cooking gas connections to houses across the country, and over 130 million families now have a cooking gas connection.

Last year India launched the Ayushman Bharat Yojana programme aimed at poor families who cannot afford expensive medical treatments. The world’s biggest healthcare scheme, PradhanMantri Jan Aarogya Abhiyan, allows for 500 million poor people to avail treatment worth 50,000 rupees per year in cases of serious illness.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Parivarajya, 4,900 chemists have been opened in over 600 districts selling more than 700 different medicines at low costs. Reduction in costs of cardiac stents and knee replacements are making these services more accessible to the poor and middle class. Those suffering from kidney ailments can now receive dialysis free of cost.

The Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana has been instrumental in providing electricity to every village in the country.

The enactment of ‘The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016’ has enabled specially abled people to have equal opportunity in education, social security and employment. To aid specially abled citizens, 140 camps are held every month where they receive assistive equipment. Equipment worth 700 crore rupees has been distributed to about 120,000 specially abled people. Major efforts have been taken to make public facilities and transport accessible under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan programme, which has seen 1,000 government buildings and over 650 railway stations made accessible.

Sign language has been regularised as seen with the publication of a dictionary by the Delhi-based Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre having 3,000 words. Work on a second dictionary with 3,000 new words is in progress.

In efforts to increase educational standards, 7 new Indian Institutes of Technology, 7 Indian Institutes of Management, 14 Indian Institutes of Information Technology, 1 National Institute of Technology, and 4 National Institutes of Design are being established. Scholarships and fellowships grants are set to increase to encourage research. Foundational education will also become more accessible by the opening of 165 Government Funded Schools in tribal regions.
• Under the Khelo India program efforts are being made to identify talented sportspersons all over the country.
• Of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana scheme, women entrepreneurs have been the greatest beneficiaries all over the country. The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana has seen about 60 million women become part of Self Help Groups enabling them to be financially independent.
• As part of assistance to Indian farmers Krishi Vigyan Kendra centres are being established across the country to assist them with scientific methods of farming.
• To safeguard farmers against crop damage, crop insurance is being offered to farmers at a low premium. Efforts are also being made to link 1,500 Agricultural wholesale markets, in order to them more accessible to farmers.
• The internet is being made more accessible in rural areas under the Digital India programme, and 160,000 villages have optical wire connections and 40,000 villages have wi-fi hotspots.
• With the establishment of Common Service Centres in rural areas, facilities like banking, insurance, pension, and scholarships, are being made available online to village folk.
• The new Government e-Marketplace is enabling entrepreneurs to sell their products to government departments more easily than before.
• Major strides have been taken towards financial inclusion through the Jan Dhan Yojana in the form of facilitation of cost effective digital transactions through RuPay debit cards and payment apps, and also by the setting up of the India Post Payments Bank.
• The auction of coal mines in India has been made transparent with the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code coming into effect, which aims to prevent default of large loans.
• The Goods and Services Tax has made taxation uniform all across the country, doing away with different tax regimes in different states and enabling ease of business all across the country.
• Reforms made to facilitate self-employment in India have resulted in India going up 65 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business Ranking to number 77.
• India’s contribution to the World GDP has increased to 3.3 per cent in 2017 and is now the 6th largest economy in the world. It is also the largest manufacturer of mobile phones.
• As part of the Make in India initiative, Asia’s largest MedTech zone is being established in Andhra Pradesh.
• Very soon the Vande Bharat Express, the fastest train to date in India will be flagged off for the public marking an important milestone in the development of the Indian Railways.
• India has been making major progress in the field of space exploration and research under the Indian Space Research Organization which is now undertaking “Mission Gaganyaan” which aims to send Indian astronauts to space by 2022.
• Seeing the potential of the east and northeast of India as a ‘growth engine’, the government is actively investing in railway, highway, waterway and airway infrastructure. The Udan Yojana is seeing 19 new airports being built in Eastern India 5 of which will be in the Northeast.
• Gas pipeline extension under the Urja Ganga Pariyojana will extend gas pipeline industries to several cities of East India.
• Most railway lines in the Northeast have been converted to broadguage. Rail connectivity to the capital cities of all 8 cities is in progress.
• More than 400 Passport issuing centres have been established in the country, saving people from travel to the big cities for passports.
• The Namami Ganga Project aiming at cleaning the river Ganga has been given funding worth 25,500 crore rupees. Major sewers will be diverted from draining into the river and instead sewage will be treated in Sewage Treatment plants built in cities.
• Just this year India unveiled the tallest statue in the world of prominent statesperson Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, called the Statue of Unity.
• Under the Make in India initiative, agreements have been made which will enable indigenous production of defenceequipment increasing India’s military self-reliance.
• 21st June has been celebrated as International Yoga Day since 2015, and India is proud of its gift of yoga to the world.
• India won the United Nations Award for environment conservation in 2018, aiming to ban all single use plastic by 2022 and increasing use of sustainable sources of energy especially that of solar energy. Last year the International Solar Alliance was successfully organized in Delhi.
• In 2022 India will host the G-20 Summit, coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of its Independence.

For detail address please visit http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=175983
This report is part of NASSCOM’s larger initiative to bridge employability gaps within the Indian IT industry. It showcases how the demand for highly-qualified, experienced and technically-adept talent in the field of AI and BDA outstrips the current supply and stresses on the importance of narrowing the demand-supply gap by up skilling talent across the AI and BDA occupation. The report also highlights the up skilling and training initiatives being taken up by the Government and Industry bodies to fill the demand and supply gap.

Key findings:

1. NASSCOM has identified 9 technology areas that will play a significant role in shaping the future of the industries and jobs both globally and locally. These technologies include: AI and Big Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Internet of Things, Virtual Reality, Cloud Computing, 3D Printing, Robotic Process Automation and Block Chain.

2. The total demand for AI and BDA talent in India is estimated to be around ~510,000 and ~800,000 in 2018 and 2021 respectively.

3. Across different industries, India has an employed talent pool of ~370,000, which is skilled in AI and BDA in the year 2018. This figure is estimated to be at ~570,000 in the year 2021.

4. In 2018, the total fresh employable talent in India from universities with relevant skills to work on new age technologies is approx. ~78,000. This number is expected to grow at a CAGR of 5% till 2021.

5. The talent demand-supply gap in AI and BDA is expected to grow from ~62,000 to ~140,000 over the next 3 years.

The steps to overcome the demand and supply gap:

1. Institutionalize adoption of Qualification Packs (QP) across both talent supply and talent, and convey their importance. This requires an effective strategy and a holistic plan to communicate and deploy QPs as an industry standard, identify organizations and partners who can champion the cause and make QPs a reference document for candidate selection interview processes, career mapping and on the job evolution.

2. Create awareness of the FutureSkills platform for access to best-in-class content. Futureskills platform needs to become the go-to place for all learning needs-identifying skill gaps, defining competency levels and assessing progress for an individual. It will bring together top-notch content that can be updated frequently based on the evolving skill requirements globally.

To achieve this, it is imperative that various organizations in the ecosystem play a significant role in contributing towards the larger initiative. This could be through content creation, review mechanisms, early adoption of the platform. Through this there lies a great opportunity to realize the vision for India to become the skill capital of the world.
Microsoft to start building AI-ready workforce in India

Technology giant Microsoft announced a three-year collaborative program Intelligent Cloud Hub, in India, to empower facilitate the skilling of students in artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud technologies. This program will equip the selected research and higher education institutions with AI infrastructure and build curriculum and faculty capability to skill students in AI and cloud technologies. Manish Prakash, Country General Manager-PS, Health and Education, Microsoft India said in a statement, “Jobs of tomorrow will require a very different set of skills, and collaborating, training and working with AI will be as important as collaborating with people.” India is the only country in the world where Microsoft is initiating such a program.

WhatsApp announces 'Startup India-WhatsApp Grand Challenge'

To fuel the growth of India's entrepreneurial and small business community, the Facebook-owned WhatsApp in partnership with Invest India launched the "Startup India -WhatsApp Grand Challenge". The challenge will give away a total of $250,000 (Rs 1.8 crore) to the top 5 winners.

WhatsApp has listed healthcare, rural economy, financial and digital inclusion, education and citizen safety as the themes for the startup challenge.

SoftBank invests $400 M in Pune-based baby care company FirstCry

Japanese internet and telecom giant SoftBank’s Vision Fund is investing $400 million in Pune-based baby and mothercare product retailer FirstCry. The investment is part of a larger round in which FirstCry will be raising around Rs 2,825 crore ($396.34 million) from SoftBank’s $93-billion Vision Fund in two tranches, the filings stated.

The funds are expected to be used to expand both its offline and online presence, as well as to strengthen its technology platform. Started in 2010 by Supam Maheshwari and Amitava Saha, FirstCry is reported to have 330-350 offline stores across the country at the end of 2018.

AOTS Japan to setup Indo-Japanese Academic and Research Partnership with IIT Kharagpur.

MoU has been signed to explore opportunities for an Indo-Japanese Research Centre.

Maruti Suzuki in partnership with the Government of Haryana to set up the state’s first Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) with aim to train young minds so that they benefit from the growing economic opportunities in the state.

The Indian economy is expected to expand by 7.6 and 7.4 per cent in 2019 and 2020, respectively, after expanding by 7.4 per cent in 2018. Economic growth continues to be underpinned by robust private consumption, a more expansionary fiscal stance and benefits from previous reforms. In India, the acceleration in investment growth was mainly driven by public infrastructure spending. Yet, a more robust and sustained recovery of private investment remains a crucial challenge to uplifting medium-term GDP growth of India to remain robust: UN’s World Economic Situation Prospects, 2019

According to Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC), an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce India jump eight places (44th of 50 economies in 2018 to 36th in 2019) on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, the highest gain for any country this year.

The Index evaluates the IP infrastructure in each economy based on 45 unique indicators, which are critical to the growth of effective IP systems.
The food processing sector in India presents a great investment opportunity as the country’s domestic food market is one of the largest in the world, and is rapidly-growing. It is one of the largest industries in India ranked 5th in terms of production, consumption, export and expected growth. Buoyed by key policy measures, including automatic approvals for FDI, and tax exemptions for exports, processing and technology transfer, India is emerging as a preferred destination for global investments in the food processing space. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector grew by 24% in 2017-18 to $ 904.9 million.

CII organized the National Food Processing Conclave in New Delhi on 30 November 2018 to help evolve a road map for the growth and development of the food processing sector, keeping in mind not only the fiscal, financial and infrastructural requirements of this industry, but also global emerging trends, to help next-generation companies ‘break the clutter; both in terms of innovative products as well as innovative business models.

The Indian food processing sector is attracting $ 1 billion FDI on annual basis. 15 mega food parks have been set up by the government in the last 4 and half year out of 42 sanctioned. There has been 350 % increase in food processing capacity and 720 % increase in cold chain capacity which also generated 5 lakh jobs.

During the recent Japan-India Annual Summit Meeting, both the countries enter into an MoC between the MoFPI (India) and MAFF (Japan) in the field of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY. For more details about the current India-Japan cooperation in the sector visit the link www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30544/IndiaJapan_Fact_Sheets OR www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000415829.pdf
Marine Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has started Fish exchange Portal. A Platform for Buyers across the globe to interact with exporters registered with MPEDA.

**Objectives:**

- To help Indian Exporters to get easy access to regulatory/trade information, about specific international markets of their interest.
- To facilitate the importers to overseas market, to access information about vast variety of Indian seafood products, registered exporters, etc.
- The Trade Facilitation portal is a centralized platform for interaction and information dissemination.

**How the Portal Helps:**

**The portal will facilitate the trade by providing:**

- Market Intelligence
- A virtual Platform for seafood exporters to meet potential buyers.
- A forum for their discussion.
- A place for gathering regulatory/trade information, viewing trends, etc.
- Helps to decide the right market for their business.

**Below is the link to the portal:**

http://fishexchange.mpeda.gov.in/Home/Index
The Sakura Exchange Programme (20-26 January 2019)

The Sakura Exchange Programme in Science for Indian Researchers and Administrators was organized by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) from 20-26 January, 2019. For this programme JST invited 30 researchers and administrators from 15 IITs, 4 IISERs, Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST: DST/DBT/DSIR) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and took them to top universities, research institutes and a private company. The objective of this programme is to introduce the cutting-edge science and technology of Japan and to promote exchange and collaboration between India and Japan. The Debriefing Meeting of Sakura Exchange Programme was held on 25 January, 2019 at JST, Tokyo to hear from the invitees their impressions and comments about Japan and the programme. Counsellor (Pol & IEC), Shri Bramha Kumar represented the Embassy of India, Tokyo in this meeting.

JENESYS 2018 SAARC 2nd Batch under the theme ‘Health’

Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) programme for SAARC countries supported by Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) organized from 21-29 January 2019 at Tokyo. The Government of Japan under the SAARC-Japan Network Programme of People-to-People Exchange invited nominations from young professionals in India for participation in JENESYS 2018 to promote mutual trust and understanding among the people of Japan and SAARC countries to build a basis for future friendship and cooperation. 13 students from India participated in this event. Counsellor (Pol & IEC), Shri Bramha Kumar attended the reporting session and delivered congratulatory remarks.

School Outreach

Embassy hosted 36 students from the Hitsuyukan High School, Kumamoto. They were familiarized with aspects of India. Amb. Verma spoke to them on 'What future holds for them' and wished them the best. Books on Gandhi were handed over the the school library.

Visa on arrival is available for Japanese citizens. Please visit Embassy of India's website for details.
Saraswati Puja

Goddess Saraswati, known as “Benzaiten” in Japan, is common to both the countries as the Deity for Knowledge and Wisdom.

As part of community outreach, Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma attended and addressed the gathering on the occasion of Saraswati Puja organized by Bengali Association of Tokyo, Japan (BATJ) on 9th Feb 2019.

As part of community outreach, Ambassador HE Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma attended the Saraswati Puja organised by India (Bengal) Cultural Association of Japan (IBCAJ) on 10th Feb 2019.

Mahatma Gandhi’s 71st Death Anniversary

Ambassador HE Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma highlighted the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in today’s context on the occasion of Gandhi’s 71st Death Anniversary at Japan – Bharat Sarvodaya Mitrata Sangha, Tokyo. He emphasized that the philosophy of Gandhi is time-tested and helps in establishing peace and inclusiveness growth in the world.

Visit of NEHU, Shillong to Japan under IRIS Programme

Embassy of India hosted a visit by group of students & scholars of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong Meghalaya under IRIS programme in cooperation with MoFA, Japan and briefed about India-Japan relations, Higher Education opportunities in Japan & potential for Tourism, Organic farming & bamboo products export to Japan.

Special Lecture on Swami Vivekanada

The Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo hosted a special lecture entitled “Swami Vivekananda’s Neo Vedanta: The Harbinger of New Renaissance” by Prof. LP Singh. The programme was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan.

Incredible India has added another feather in its cap with the Best in Show Award at the New York Times Travel Show held in New York, USA from 25th to 27th January 2019.
Cultural evening of folk music & dance

Embassy of India organized an cultural evening of folk music & dance by the famous Dhoad Group from Rajasthan on 14 February 2019 at its VCC Auditorium. The event was attended by around 200 guests including members of Indian community, members of diplomatic corps, media friends and friends of India.

Uchisaiwaicho India Festival

Uchisaiwaicho India Festival was held at Uchisaiwaicho Hall of Chiyoda City on Saturday 9th February. The event was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India to Japan. Addressing the audience, His Excellency spoke on the ever-expanding scope of the special Strategic Global Partnership between India and Japan, rooted in shared values and cultural exchanges spanning centuries. The programme featured a variety of performances, lectures and demonstrations. Prof. Siddharth Singh, Director, Vivekananda Cultural Centre, gave a talk on Gandhi’s environmental philosophy. Dr Reeta Sharma, Teacher of Indian Culture (VCC) conducted two yoga sessions for the visitors. Performance items included Odissi, folk dances, Kathak, north Indian classical music, Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam and Indian movie dance. The event was organised as part of the celebrations for the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by Embassy of India, Uchisaiwaicho Hall and Contemporary Natyam Company. Over 400 members of the public attended the event.

Buddhist Circuit Tourist Train.
Book your tickets now on https://www.irctcbuddhisttrain.com/

The Japan Foundation, New Delhi presents Exhibition: Indian Deities Worshipped in Japan Text & Photographs by Benoy K Behl

Date: 8th Feb to 7th March 2019
Timing: 11:00am to 7:00pm on Weekdays (Closed on Sundays)
Venue: The Japan Foundation, New Delhi, Gallery
Madhubani painting, also referred to as Mithila Art (as it flourishes in the Mithila region of Bihar), is characterized by line drawings filled in by bright colours and contrasts or patterns. This style of painting has been traditionally done by the women of the region, though today men are also involved to meet the demand. These paintings are popular because of their tribal motifs and use of bright earthy colours. These paintings are done with mineral pigments prepared by the artists. The work is done on freshly plastered or a mud wall.

For commercial purposes, the work is now being done on paper, cloth, canvas etc. Cotton wrapped around a bamboo stick forms the brush. Black colour is obtained by mixing soot with cow dung; yellow from turmeric or pollen or lime and the milk of banyan leaves; blue from indigo; red from the kusam flower juice or red sandalwood; green from the leaves of the wood apple tree; white from rice powder; orange from palasha flowers. The colours are applied flat with no shading and no empty space is left.

Figures from nature & mythology are adapted to suit their style. The themes & designs widely painted are of Hindu deities such as Krishna, Rama, Siva, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Sun and Moon, Tulasi plant, court scenes, wedding scenes, social happenings etc. Floral, animal and bird motifs, geometrical designs are used to fill up all the gaps. The skill is handed down the generations, and hence the traditional designs and patterns are widely maintained.

In order to create a source of non-agricultural income, the All India Handicrafts Board and the Government of India have been encouraging the women artists to produce their traditional paintings on handmade paper for commercial sale. Madhubani painting has become a primary source of income for scores of families. The continuing market in this art throughout the world is a tribute to the resourcefulness of the women of Mithila who have successfully transferred their techniques of bhitti chitra or wall painting to the medium of paper. The art form is a Geographical Indication from Bihar.

"When Mithila Paintings of India were etched on trains, not only Indians but people from other countries also got attracted. I am feeling very happy by telling you that Japan, after witnessing the beauty of Mithila painting, has requested a team of Mithila artists, and we are doing it gracefully."

tweeted Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Govt of India
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